

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

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R 201015 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3895

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4656

DEPTO 58

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP XD NP

SUBJECT: DEPSEC' S CALL ON NEPALESE FOREIGN MINISTER

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY, ACCOMPANIED BY SISCO, AMBASSADOR LAISE, AND SCHNEIDER, CALLED ON NEPALESE FONMIN KARKI APRIL 19. ALSO PRESENT ON NEPALESE SIDE: NEPALESE AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE TO WASHINGTON KHANAL. DEPSEC STARTED OFF SAYING US HAS STRONG FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP FOR NEPAL. THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SENT THEIR BEST REGARDS TO KING BIRENDRA AND PRIME MINISTER. FONMIN EXPRESSED NEPAL' S GRATITUDE FOR US FRIENDSHIP AND COMMENDED AMBASSADOR LAISE FOR ACHIEVING GREATLY IMPROVED US- NEPALESE RELATIONS DURING HER SIX YEARS IN KATHMANDU.

2. DEPSEC NOTED US IS VERY FORTUNATE POSITION IN NEPAL AS THERE WERE NO REAL PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS, NOTED THAT WE CONSIDERED OUR FREINDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH NEPAL AS ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY.
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3. FONMIN REPLIED NEPAL WAS VERY HAPPY WITH STATE OF US-NEPAL RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT NEPAL HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH INDIA AND CHINA. NEPAL MAY BE LAST COUNTRY TO PRACTICE GENUINE NON- ALIGNMENT. IT HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC NEEDS, AND DESPITE OCCASIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS US INDEPENDENT INTEREST IN NEPAL IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. FURTHERMORE, US EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, PARTICULARLY WITH CHINA, ARE HELPFUL TO NEPAL.

4. DEPSEC AGREED NORMALIZATION OF US RELATIONS WITH CHINA WAS GREAT STEP TOWARD PEACE. CHINA IS REALIZING THAT US IS NOT IMPERIALIST POWER, BUT IS SEEKING PEACE. DEPSEC DESCRIBED NEW US POSTURE OF LEAVING REGIONAL PROBLEMS TO REGIONAL NATIONS, WHILE NONETHELESS MAINTAINING COMMITMENTS. IN RESPONSE QUESTION, DEPSEC REVIEWED DIFFICULTIES US ENCOUNTERING IN REGARD TO CEASE- FIRE IN VIETNAM, NOTED US OFFER HELP IN REHABILITATION NORTH VIETNAM AND OUR DESIRE HANOI SEE BENEFITS TO PEOPLE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM PEACE, ASKED FONMIN WHETHER GON HAD NAY INFORMATION REGARDING CHINESE THINKING ON VIETNAM.

5. FONMIN SAID HE HAD NOTHING POSITIVE ON THIS SUBJECT BUT HE BELIEVED CHINA COMING CLOSER TO INDIA; NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SIKKIM INCIDENT MAY POSE PROBLEM IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. IN RESPONSE DEPSEC QUESTION, FONMIN INDICATED HIS VIEW THAT RULER OF SIKKIM COULD NOT CARRY PEOPLE WITH HIM. HE WISHED DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MAJORITY POPULATION. INDIA THEN PLAYED ITS PART PROTECTING VITAL INTERESTS. SIKKIM RULER HAD THREATENED TO SEEK INDEPENDENCE. RULER DID NOT CONDUCT HIS AFFAIRS WISELY. THERE HAD BEEN SHARP REACTION FROM CHINA.

6. FONMIN TOLD DEPSEC THAT NEPAL WELCOMED IMPROVEMENT SINO- INDIAN RELATIONS, AS WELL AS US- INDIA RELATIONS. NEPAL DID NOT WISH BELONG TO ANY GROUP OF POWERS. IT HAD TURNED DOWN INDIAN INITIATIVE FOR TRIPARTITE TRADE AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND TRANSIT WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH.

7. DEPSEC NOTED PROBLEMS FACED BY NEPAL BECAUSE OF LOCATION NEXT TO LARGE AND POWERFUL INDIA.
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8. FONMIN AGAIN WELCOMED US STANCE, CONVEYED HIS GRATITUDE FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR NEPAL, SAID THAT DEPSEC ' S VISIT HAD CONTRIBUTED TO UNDERSTANDING OF NEPALESE PROBLEMS AND STRENGTHENED FRIENDLY US- NEPALESE RELATIONS.

9. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH FURTHER EXPRESSION FROM NEPALESE SIDE OF GRATITUDE FOR SUERVICE OF AMBASSADOR LAISE AND STRONG STATEMENT FOR US SIDE REGARD-
ING MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO US- NEPALESE RELATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE BY AMBASSADOR SHARMA IN WASHINGTON.
RUSH

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